

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Gregory Scott  
Edward A. Garvey  
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Chair  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area  
Service from Taylors Falls to MCA

ISSUE DATE: June 6, 2002

DOCKET NO. P-404,407,520,405,413,  
426,427,430,421/CP-98-299

ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS  
AND REQUIRING IMPLEMENTATION

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On March 2, 1998, subscribers in the Taylors Falls exchange filed a petition for Extended Area Service (EAS) to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area (MCA). Taylors Falls is currently served by Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, Inc. (Citizens).<sup>1</sup> The MCA is served by Bridgewater, Citizens, Eckles, Frontier, Lakedale, Scott-Rice, Sherburne, Sprint and Qwest.<sup>2</sup>

On November 25, 1998, the Commission issued an Order finding that the proposed EAS route met the threshold requirements of adjacency and traffic volume. The Commission therefore directed the affected telephone companies to submit cost studies and proposed rates. The Commission would then poll Taylors Falls subscribers to determine if they wanted EAS at those rates.

The companies duly filed their cost studies and proposed rates, but the Commission did not proceed directly to polling. Instead, in a series of Orders issued between November 1998 and May 2001, the Commission addressed a series of new issues posed by the need to adapt EAS to the

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<sup>1</sup> Taylors Falls was formerly served by GTE Minnesota.

<sup>2</sup> Bridge Water Telephone Company, Eckles Telephone Company, Frontier Communications of Minnesota, Inc., Lakedale Telephone Company, Scott-Rice Telephone Company, Sherburne County Rural Telephone Company, Sprint Telephone Company and U S WEST Communications (now Qwest Corporation), respectively.

competitive telecommunications market mandated by state and federal law. With these issues largely settled, the Commission met on October 30, 2001 to again consider the Taylors Falls EAS petition.

On December 4, 2001, the Commission issued its ORDER SETTING EAS RATE ADDITIVES AND REQUIRING POLLING.

Polling of telephone subscribers in the Jeffers, Lamberton, Sanborn, Storden, Cherry Grove, Fountain, Granger, Harmony, Preston, Callaway, Dodge Center, Hitterdal, Kabetogama/Ray, Kerkhoven, Lewiston, Taylor Falls and West Concord exchanges took place between February 6 and March 25, 2002.

The Commission met on May 2, 2002 to consider this matter.

## **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **I. CERTIFICATION OF POLLING RESULTS: TAYLORS FALLS TO THE METROPOLITAN CALLING AREA**

The results of the polling show that a majority of voting subscribers in the Taylors Falls exchange voted in favor of EAS to the MCA. The results were as follows:

#### **Polling results for Taylors Falls**

Voting Exchange	Petitioned Exchange	Res. EAS Rate	Bus. EAS Rate	% Voting	Yes		No	
					#	%	#	%
Taylors Falls	MCA	\$9.98	\$19.97	73.7	485	92.0	42	8.0

### **II. ORDER FOR INSTALLATION**

The third and final statutory criterion for EAS is that a majority of customers responding to a poll in the petitioning exchange favor its installation. Because a majority of Taylors Falls customers returning their ballots voted in favor of the proposed EAS route, the third and final criterion is met in each petition.

Accordingly, the Commission will direct the affected telephone companies<sup>3</sup> to implement the requested EAS route within 12 months of the date of this Order. To expedite and coordinate the implementation process, the Commission will order Citizens to coordinate implementation of EAS in the Taylors Falls exchange with the affected telephone companies serving the MCA exchange, and file a schedule of the planned implementation within 60 days of this Order. The Company will also be required to immediately file an explanation of the reasons for any subsequent change in that schedule.

### **III. MISCELLANEOUS**

Details regarding recovery of the non-recurring expenses caused by non-recurring costs of EAS balloting, further customer notices and the approval process for those notices, as well as tariff filing requirements, are addressed in the Ordering Paragraphs.

### **ORDER**

1. The Taylors Falls to MCA route is hereby approved.
2. The affected telephone companies shall implement the service within 12 months following the date of this Order.
3. Citizens shall coordinate the implementation of EAS with Bridgewater, Citizens, Eckles, Frontier, Lakedale, Scott-Rice, Sherburne, Sprint and Qwest,<sup>4</sup> the telephone companies serving the petitioned LCA and file implementation schedules within 60 days of the Order. If, for some reason, the implementation schedules change, the company should immediately notify the Commission and explain the reason(s) for the change(s).
4. Citizens shall file the first of two proposed customer notices for approval by Commission staff within 10 days of the date of the Order. The notice shall list the results of the polling, the EAS additives and the proposed implementation date (s). After approval, Citizens shall serve the notices in the first possible billing cycle in their respective exchanges.

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<sup>3</sup> The affected telephone companies in this matter are: Bridgewater, Citizens, Eckles, Frontier, Lakedale, Scott-Rice, Sherburne, Sprint and Qwest..

<sup>4</sup> Bridge Water Telephone Company, Eckles Telephone Company, Frontier Communications of Minnesota, Inc., Lakedale Telephone Company, Scott-Rice Telephone Company, Sherburne County Rural Telephone Company, Sprint Telephone Company and Qwest Corporation, respectively.

5. Citizens shall send final, Commission approved, notices to customers in the petitioning exchange, either by bill insert or separate mailing. The final notices shall describe the service, instruct customers on dialing, list the additional monthly rates, the date of implementation and any other pertinent information. Citizens must issue these notices one month before they implement EAS.
6. Citizens shall make any requests for recovery of non-recurring costs at least 120 days before the planned implementation dates. The Department shall have 30 days to comment on the proposed charges.
7. The companies serving the MCA shall file proposed customer notices for customers in the MCA for approval by Commission staff 90 days before the anticipated implementation dates for the Taylors Falls EAS route. The notices must describe the service, instruct customers on dialing, list the additional rates to be paid and the date of implementation. The companies serving the MCA shall send the notices during billing cycles that conclude at least one month, but not more than two months, before EAS is implemented.
8. Citizens shall file tariff sheets reflecting Commission Orders that establish the rates and terms for EAS between Taylors Falls and the MCA. These tariff sheets shall be filed at least 30 days before implementation of EAS. Once this is done, this docket shall be closed.
9. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar  
Executive Secretary

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